

Northwoods Journal – August 2014

A Free Publication about Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

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Prairie Walk & Astronomy Night at the Harmony Arboretum



Come to the Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens this month for several interesting free public nature programs! On **Thursday, August 14 from 9:00-10:15 p.m.**, come learn about what's in the **summer night sky**. After a brief introduction to astronomy spend an evening stargazing in a wonderful setting!

A **prairie walk** will be held on **Thursday, August 21 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** to learn more about our native prairie ecosystems and the plants and animals that live there.

For more information about these programs and more, see the Harmony Arboretum Calendar on page 8, or call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780, or visit www.marinettecounty.com. The Harmony Arboretum is located 7 miles west of Marinette, ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County Road E. It's open to the public year-round and free!

Another Great Year for Sand Lake Conservation Camp

By Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist



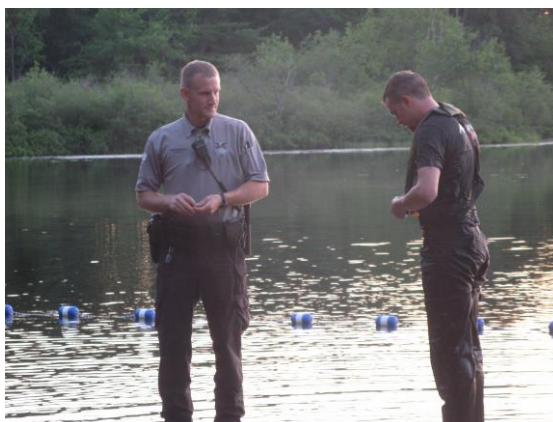
2014 Sand Lake Conservation Camp participants

The 9th annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp held at Camp Bird near Crivitz was again a success this year, with 88 campers representing 27 Wisconsin and 3 Upper Michigan counties, and over 20 dedicated staff. This event, organized by the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD), is for youth going into 6-8th grade in the fall. This camp provides positive educational outdoor experiences, fosters an appreciation for nature, and introduces a variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers.

Core topics, presented by Marinette County staff, included aquatic macroinvertebrates, herptiles, and water pollution/conservation. The fourth core topic, wetland habitat, was presented by Peter Ziegler and Bruce Urben of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (below).



Evening presentations were given by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff Chip Long, Fisheries Biologist, and Conservation Wardens Dave Oginski Jr. and Dale Romback. They spoke about their careers, educational backgrounds, and what tools they use in their jobs. Below, Dave and Dale discuss water safety.



Kim Diedrich and staff from the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay brought several native Wisconsin animals and discussed wildlife rehabilitation & conservation issues. A scavenger hunt, campfire building contest, making s'mores

and pudgy pies, and playing "Conservation Jeopardy" were also part of camp.



Learning about wildlife with Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary's education porcupine

'Campers Choice' activities included outdoor recreation safety, trapping, geology/archeology, fur trading history, raptor rehabilitation, archery, canoeing, t-shirt design, spinner making, outdoor first aid, GPS/orienteering, birdhouse building, leathercraft, wildlife camouflage, and teambuilding activities. They are presented by Marinette County staff and guest speakers.



Jeremy Cords, WDNR, led the outdoor recreation safety session (above); Richard and Maryann Clark of Clark's Willowtree Fur of Coleman taught trapping sessions; Rock Anderson taught geology/archeology sessions; and Marla Sutton taught outdoor first aid sessions. Abbey Ruppert and staff from the Raptor Education Group, Inc. Antigo, led sessions on raptor rehabilitation, and Mike Jacobsen from Heritage Hill State Historic Park in Green Bay presented the fur trader history session.

Camp sponsors this year included the Marinette and Green Bay Chapters of Trout Unlimited, the American Legion Post 280 of Coleman, the Hancock Sportsman's Club, and the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association. In addition, Land & Water Conservation departments in Sauk, Ozaukee, Douglas, and Waushara Counties joined Marinette County in offering camper scholarships. Sponsors' dedication to youth programs like Sand Lake Conservation Camp is much appreciated. Many campers would not be able to attend otherwise.

For more information about Sand Lake Conservation Camp, please visit the Marinette County website at www.marinettecounty.com or contact Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist, at 715-732-7784 or abartels@marinettecounty.com. Tentative dates for 2015 are June 24-26; registration information will be available by mid-March.

Bring Down the Barriers! Five Causes of Nature-Deficit Disorder & Five Challenges for the New Nature Movement

By Richard Louv, from www.childrenandnature.org

In the 21st Century, our Great Work – as Thomas Berry put it – must be the creation of a new, restorative relationship with the rest of the natural world. It’s time to envision that future. It’s time to bring down the barriers, including these — which are not only between people and nature, but also between people.

1. URBANIZATION WITHOUT NATURE

- As of 2008, for the first time in human history, more people now live in cities than in the countryside. The barrier is not the city, but the absence of nature in the city.
- Poor design of cities, neighborhoods, homes, schools, workplaces.
- Loss of urban parkland and the destruction of nearby nature within neighborhoods.
- Poor transportation systems that bypass communities of different economics and abilities, and bypass natural areas as well.
- The false dichotomy of urban and nature.
- Disappearance of biodiversity: the less we see, the less we value.



2. A CULTURE OF FEAR

- Media-amplified fear of strangers.
- Real dangers in some neighborhoods, including traffic and toxins.
- Fear of lawyers: in a litigious society, families, schools, communities play it safe, creating “risk-free” environments that create greater risks later.
- The “criminalization” of natural play through social attitudes, community covenants and regulations, and good intentions.
- Ecophobia*: children are conditioned at an early age to associate nature with environmental doom.
- The natural world does pose risks, but the benefits outweigh them. The less we experience nature, the less we know how to avoid natural risks, and the more we fear nature.



3. SILICON FAITH

- Technology now dominates almost every aspect of our lives.
- In the name of enrichment and education preparedness, children’s lives are over-programmed and immersed in the virtual world.
- The almost religious assumption that technology solves all problems, even in those cases when better solutions exist.
- Technology is not, in itself, the enemy; but our lack of balance is lethal. The pandemic of inactivity is one result. Sitting is the new smoking.
- As we spend more of our lives looking at screens instead of streams, our senses narrow; the more time we spend in the virtual world, the less alive we feel – and the less energy we have for going outside.

- Without a countervailing cultural force, the economic power of technology is overwhelming other values and solutions.



4. CULTURAL DEVALUING OF NATURE

- Many no longer think that time spent in the natural world and independent, imaginary play time as “enrichment.”
- Nature is now commonly perceived as a “nice to have,” not a “need to have” for children’s healthy growth and development.
- Until recently, researchers and the health community have ignored the benefits of nature experience to human development; funds for research remain scarce.
- Though a relatively new and growing body of research clearly reveals the benefits of nature to health and cognitive development, most parents, educators, health care professionals, and policy makers remain unaware of the findings.



- Lack of cultural and ethnic diversity within the environmental movement and conservation agencies.
- The loss of natural cultural capacity: Immigrant groups and diverse cultures know a lot about connecting to nature, but over time that knowledge, unappreciated by mainstream culture, is disappearing.
- Generational amnesia: as the decades and older generations disappear, so does our aptitude for connecting with nature.
- Our engagement with nature is being replaced by *solastalgia* – the pain of seeing natural areas disappear, and the disengagement that goes with that.



5. A POST-APOCALYPTIC VIEW OF THE FUTURE

- Nature is seen as the problem, not the solution.
- The three greatest environmental challenges: climate change, biodiversity collapse, and the disconnect of children from nature — are interrelated, and all seem overwhelming.
- On both extremes of the cultural divide, nature is seen as the other. These extremes dominate public discourse.

Continued on page 5

Two New Phragmites Control Projects Underway in Marinette County

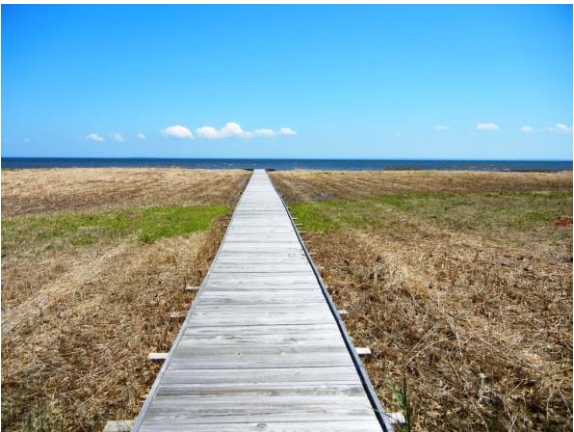
Two new projects to control the exotic invasive species *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) are underway in Marinette County. *Phragmites* is large aquatic grass growing along the Green Bay shoreline and in inland wetlands across the southern Marinette County. These invasive plants have been blocking views and impeding recreation for more than a decade.



Phragmites spreads very aggressively and out-competes native plants that fish and wildlife depend on for food and cover. In 2010 Marinette County helped the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) implement a three-year project to control *Phragmites* with an aerial herbicide application. Approximately 735 acres, along 15 miles of shoreline, were aerially treated with an herbicide. An additional 30 acres of *Phragmites* were ground sprayed. In total, 304 shoreline parcels were treated.



Michaelis Park, off of Shore Drive in Marinette, pre-treatment; note the tall stands of *Phragmites*



The same area, post-treatment

Marinette County is helping the WDNR and Ducks Unlimited with a new two year project to continue the treatment of *Phragmites*. Owners of parcels in the original project are being contacted and asked for permission to spray any remaining *Phragmites*. Although the last herbicide spray was very successful, in some cases *Phragmites* persisted or plants were missed. The new project will re-spray areas with *Phragmites* remaining and treat any new or missed stands. Treatment will start in late summer of 2014 with a follow-up treatment in 2015. Work will only occur below the ordinary high water mark on the lake bed. The majority of the treatment will be performed by ground crews using backpack sprayers to minimize the impact on non-target species.

A second project will spray inland *Phragmites* along the leading western edge of its infestation. This winter Marinette County staff worked with the WDNR to identify locations of *Phragmites* beds, especially along road ways. Starting soon, ground crews will treat *Phragmites* stands with an herbicide.

These projects continue Marinette County’s efforts to control invasive species by forming partnerships with other agencies and groups. Invasive species do not recognize political or jurisdictional boundaries. Only by working together at all levels can we start to control these species and minimize their impacts on our quality of life and environment.



Area Farmers' & Flea Markets



Marinette Stephenson Island Farmers Market

Tuesdays from 3-7pm and Fridays 7am to noon on Stephenson Island in Marinette. Open each Tuesday & Friday through October 29th except on days when the island is reserved/events. Call 715-732-5139 for more information.

Crivitz Farmers Market

Outdoors at the Evergreen Market, 412 South HWY 141 in Crivitz from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays, June through October. Offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, honey, maple syrup, handmade soaps and personal care items, fresh-baked breads and other baked goods.

Crivitz Flea Market

Through August 28th, Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A). Every Thursday and July 4 across from the Village Hall & St. Mary's Church at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A) in Crivitz. Vendors can show up on Thursday morning and set up in any unreserved spot. For more information contact Barbara at 715-854-2030.

Oconto Farmers' Market

Held Saturdays, Mid-June through October, from 8am – Noon at the Oconto County Courthouse in historic downtown Oconto. For more information, call Hope Kersten at 920-834-7072.

Menominee Community Flea Market

Held at the M & M Plaza the second Saturday of every month, May through September, and also on Saturday, October 11th. Sales run from 7am-2pm. All spaces are free, first come, vendors set up in area by by old car dealership. Questions call Holly at 906-863-4808.

Menominee Farmers Market

Located on the corner of 1st Street and 8th Avenue across from the Bandshell. Menominee, MI. June through beginning of October. Saturday market from 9am-1pm, and Wednesday market from 3-7pm. For more information, contact Lucy Pier at 906-863-8718 or visit online at menomineefrmkt@hotmail.com.

For more information about area markets, visit Marinette County's tourism website at www.therealnorth.com or call the



Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and click "Northwoods Journal" in the Quick Links menu at the right of the page. We can send an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist: abartels@marinettecounty.com or call 715-732-7784 for more information.

Got Job Skills? Marinette County 4-H Camp Counselors do!

By Lisa Devine-Barribeau, Marinette County 4-H Youth Development Educator, University of Wisconsin-Extension

Going to camp is more than fun and games around the campfire. Teens in Marinette County 4-H and Youth Development Programs are learning and developing job skills critical to the 21st century workforce employers say many new job entrants are lacking. Camp counseling gives 4-H teens job skills they can add to their resume. Skills teens learn through volunteer positions are just as valuable on a resume as those learned at a paid position.



In order to be a 4-H camp counselor or dishwasher, teens need to go through steps similar to applying for a job including completing an application and participating in an interview. Teens selected as camp counselors attend training, help plan camp and work in groups to prepare for camp.

4-H camp counselors have challenging, meaningful roles and carry out real responsibilities as part of their experience. At camp, they lead camper groups in activities, live with them in cabins and teach everything from crafts to canoeing to collaboration and problem solving. Marinette County 4-H also involves dishwashers who go through the same process and learn and practice another set of skills while at camp. After camp, counselors complete a self-assessment of their job at camp and go through a performance appraisal.



The skills camp counselors develop will transfer to a variety of work settings. These skills have to do with one's approach to work, interactions with others, and the application of skills to a variety of work tasks and roles. According to educators at Ohio State, who developed the CampWorks Program, camp counselors significantly improve their communication, teamwork, problem solving, time management and good work habits like being punctual and responsible. "It has taught me the skills that are important in life no matter what kind of job you get."



In Marinette County, teens who take on camp roles at 4-H Summer Camp are evaluated on six important job skills identified through the Wisconsin 4-H Foundational Leadership Team. They include creativity and innovation, critical thinking, communication, respect, cooperation and self-direction.

4-H Summer Camp is open to all youth. Campers are in grades 3 – 6 and Counselors are age 15-19. Camp is held in June at Camp Bird (near Crivitz). For information on attending camp or to apply as a camp counselor, contact Lisa Devine-Barribeau, Marinette County 4-H Youth Development Educator with the University of Wisconsin – Extension at 715-732-7514 or visit our website at <http://marinette.uwex.edu>.



Marinette County Fair in Wausauke August 21-24!



The fair features 4-H and open class exhibits, merchant's exhibits, music, midway entertainment, truck and tractor pulls and the demo derby. Stop in for an old-fashioned good time. Wausauke Fairgrounds price for gate admission is \$5 per day or \$15 for the season. \$12 advance season tickets available at Smith's Market in Wausauke, Witt's Piggly Wiggly in Crivitz, Associated Bank of Coleman, Lee's Family Foods in Peshtigo, and the M&M Chamber of Commerce in Marinette. Wristband nights for the carnival are Thursday and Friday from 6-10 p.m. and are \$15 per wristband.

For more information, visit www.marinettecountyfair.com or call 715-938-4099



Time to Start Planning for Home Canning & Preservation Season

By Beth Rieth, Family Living Educator, Marinette County UW-Extension

When it comes to flavor and taste, few things compare to home-canned produce fresh from the garden. The home canning and preserving season will be here before we know it, so now is a good time to start preparing.



"Preserving food from your garden or orchard can be a good way to combat the rising prices of food at the grocery," says Barbara Ingham, University of Wisconsin-Extension food scientist. "But be sure to follow research-tested recipes for safe, high quality food that your family will enjoy."

Recipes that are not precise, that call for "a pinch" of this ingredient or "a pinch" of that ingredient; recipes that are not tested in a laboratory; or those that contain outdated or inaccurate canning information can result in products that may be unsafe to consume. Ingham offers three general guidelines for safe food preservation:

- **Inspect and repair any food preservation equipment at the beginning of the season.** Now is a good time to inspect canners or food dehydrators to make sure all equipment is in working condition. And start now to collect approved canning jars and lids for use during the season. Canning jars that use two-piece, self-sealing metal lids are recommended for home canning. Jars should be free of nicks or scratches. A "must" every canning season is new flat lids. Metal screw bands that are not bent or rusted can be reused.
- **Have dial-gauge pressure canners tested for accuracy.** A pressure canner is essential for canning low-acid vegetables, meats, fish and poultry. Pressure canners come with either a dial-gauge or a weighted-gauge. Dial-gauge pressure canners should be tested each year for accuracy. Marinette County UW-Extension office offers free dial-gauge testing; call ahead for availability of this service.



- **Always follow an up-to-date tested recipe from a reliable source.** This is perhaps the most important step in preparing for home food preservation, according to Ingham. Cookbooks and old family recipes are not reliable sources of research-tested recipes. Consult Marinette County UW-Extension for recipes that will ensure you are canning safe, high quality foods.

"More tomatoes are home-canned than any other product. And home-canned tomatoes can be so delicious. But many people are still unaware that tomato-canning recommendations

changed dramatically way back in 1994," says Ingham. "I answer questions every year from consumers who are not aware that you must add acid to home-canned tomato products to ensure safety. This is just one example where even though it's tempting to return to a family-favorite recipe, it's important to update your canning recipes as guidelines change."



You can find the most up-to-date recipes, how-to videos, online lectures and more to help you safely can fruit, jams and jellies, meat, pickles, salsa, tomatoes, and vegetables, plus information on freezing fruits and vegetables at the "Safe and Healthy: Preserving Food at Home" blog online at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/safepreserving>.



"Food safety is, and should be, a primary concern when home canning any type of food, from pickles to meat. The University of Wisconsin-Extension sets itself apart in providing research-based information," says Beth Rieth, Family Living Educator, Marinette County UW-Extension. "Begin the food preservation season by updating your resources so that you can be sure that you are preserving safe, high quality food for your family to enjoy."



To help you keep up-to-date with home canning practices, Marinette County is offering workshops on food preservation at local libraries this summer, with sessions at the Wausaukee Library on July 30 at 3:00 p.m. and Niagara Public Library on August 6 at 2:00 p.m.

If you have any food preservation or preparation questions, contact UWEX staff Beth Rieth or Nancy Crevier at 715-732-7510, or email them at beth.rieth@ces.uwex.edu or nancy.crevier@ces.uwex.edu.



Woody Habitat - More Than Just a Tree in the Water!

By Danielle Budish

Land Information Department Intern

Think before removing wood along the shoreline. Woody habitat is vital for shelter, predator-prey relationships, and spawning habitat for fish, aquatic invertebrates, turtles, and birds. Although not cosmetically pleasing to some, trees, logs, and roots all serve a significant role in the ecosystem.



A fallen pine tree creates shelter for schools of small bluegill which attract largemouth bass and other game fish.

Most woody habitats occur naturally by erosion, landslides, and wind. However, throughout Wisconsin's history, changes in the logging industry, forest composition, and shoreline development have led to a drastic decline in woody habitat, directly impacting the lives of organisms.



A developed shoreline leaves little room for woody habitat



Woody habitat provides quality habitat for wildlife

In Marinette County, private landowners and lake associations are partnering with county, state, and federal agencies to restore woody habitats. A large tree drop project was led by DNR Fish Biologist Christopher (Chip) Long. Last March the project was completed along the Peshtigo River State Forest on High Falls Flowage near County X. The tree drop project entailed the placement of 41 oak trees on the ice.



By adding woody debris to the area, fish and other organisms will flourish.



Black Bears of Wisconsin

By Aleta DiRienzo, Database Specialist/Professional Assistant, LWCD



Ursus americanus, the black bear, is the only bear species in Wisconsin and is our largest predator

Last month we learned about the wolves of Wisconsin - this month you will be introduced to the Black Bear.

The Black Bear has long been an important part of the history of Wisconsin. The Native Americans honored the bear as a supernatural being and treated the bear hunt with great respect and ceremony. They used bear skins for robes and the meat and oil for cooking, fuel and medicines. As European settlers moved into Wisconsin, they also needed bear meat and wanted skins for clothes and blankets.

As more people came to settle Wisconsin, conflict came between the people and the bears. Bounty systems were set up to encourage killing bears and fur traders paid top dollar for bear skins. This large-scale killing caused the number of bears to decrease. Logging and settlement also reduced the bear population, ruining habitat and lowering their numbers. In the 1930's people started to protect the bear and limit hunting.

Bears prefer large forested areas with swamps and streams mixed in, similar to what we have in the northern two thirds of Wisconsin. Adult males average 47-70 inches long and weigh about 250-300 pounds, while females are smaller and weigh between 120-180 pounds and measure 50-58 inches long. The largest black bear in Wisconsin tipped the scale at 700 pounds! Black bears have round, short bodies with sturdy legs. The rounded shape comes from a thick layer of fat under the skin and the dense, coarse fur - usually a glossy black. However, fur can range in color from white to a cinnamon, to very dark brown or black.

Most populations have a mixture of these colors, including the pure white form which is found in some individuals in southern British Columbia. This white black bear (called spirit bears, revered by Native Americans) is caused by inheriting a recessive gene for coat color from both the mother and the father who could, themselves, both be black.

In Wisconsin about 25% of bears have an irregular white patch on their chests. They walk on the soles of their feet - a gait called "*plantigrade*" - and have five toes with non-retractable claws. It may be surprising, but the black bear's hind footprint is very similar to ours! Their claws are used for hunting, climbing trees, and tearing open logs in search of insects. Don't be fooled by their looks, the average black bear can run over 30 miles per hour and climb a tree in a heartbeat to get out of harm's way.



Black bears store a considerable amount of fat during the fall to prepare for a unique form of hibernation called "*carnivorean lethargy*". Bears' hibernation is more severe than that of animals like raccoons, chipmunks, and badgers, which may sleep for days or weeks at a time in winter but occasionally awake & feed during warmer winter periods. When these animals sleep a lot in winter it's referred to as "*torpor*", a state of reduced body temperature & metabolic rate.



Tracks: hind foot (left) and front foot (right). Bears' gait is termed "plantigrade" - walking on the bottom of the feet - other examples are skunks, raccoons, & humans.

Other hibernators like some bats, 13-lined ground squirrels & woodchucks also undergo hibernation, but are unable to awaken like bears.

Bears need eat a whole year's worth of food in 6 to eight months. They usually forage in the twilight hours between mid-May and into late September. Bears are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and meat. In the early fall they gorge themselves with greens, nuts, berries, carrion (dead meat), insects and small mammals. As winter approaches, they look for dens - hollow trees, brush piles, rock crevices, caves, excavated holes in hillsides, or under upturned tree roots. Some will even den in open areas like muskrat dens and let the snow cover them. They often line the den with moss, grass, and leaves. There they will stay for the winter months in a state of torpor in order to survive the winter without eating, eliminating waste or drinking water. Bears will lose up to 30 percent of their full weight by spring.



Black bears are typically solitary creatures, except for a female with cubs, and during mating season, which peaks in May and June. Following fertilization, the embryo doesn't implant in the uterus until fall. This process of "*delayed implantation*" occurs in all bear species and allows the female's body to physiologically assess her condition before implantation occurs and gestation begins. Delayed implantation allows the female to avoid wasting fat reserves and energy in sustaining a pregnancy that would have little chance of success because her condition is too poor. In January she gives birth to typically two cubs, only waking to nurse and tend the cubs. Females give birth to cubs every other year if food sources are sufficiently plentiful.

In years when food supplies are scarce a female may skip an additional year or two between litters. The cubs will stay with her the following winter, and when the cubs are 1.5 years old, they will separate and she will breed again. In spring when the bears emerge, the female signals the cubs to follow and they feed on hearty foods like frogs, carrion, and insects, instead of plants and berries. Plants and berries are eaten later in the summer at a rate of 11-18 pounds a day.



Mother and cub emerging from a den

It is rare that a person will come in contact with a bear unless they live near bear country or visit areas where bears are present. If you do see a bear, remember you are a visitor in their home. Your behavior may

Continued next page



Nature Barriers, continued from page 2

- Cultural acceptance that it's too late to change course.
- The lack of a positive vision of a nature-rich future.

It's time to create that vision. It's time to bring down the barriers. Hard? Of course. But we can do the best we can while we're here on Earth, and millions of children will surely experience the wonder of nature that past generations took for granted.



Resources and other reading:

- Children & Nature Network online - <http://www.childrenandnature.org>
- Seven Reasons for a New Nature Movement - <http://blog.childrenandnature.org/2011/06/20/seven-reasons-we-need-a-new-nature-movement/>
- You're a Part of the New Nature Movement If... <http://blog.childrenandnature.org/2012/02/28/you-are-part-of-the-new-nature-movement-if/>
- For information about the research, see C&NN's research summaries.
- Philosopher Glenn Albrecht coined the term "solastalgia." <http://theearth.blogspot.com/2008/01/solastalgia-history-and-definition.html>
- Educator and writer David Sobel is the originator of the term "ecophobia."
- The books of Thomas Berry - <http://www.thomasberry.org/Books/>



Richard Louv is Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Children & Nature Network, an organization supporting the international movement to connect children, their families and their communities to the natural world. He is the author of eight books, including "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder" and "The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age" from which parts of this column are drawn.

"Last Child in the Woods" introduces the concept of nature-deficit disorder, offering practical actions for families and communities. "The Nature Principle" extends the issue to adults and reports the restorative power of the natural world. In 2008, he was awarded the Audubon Medal.





Bears, continued







have life or death consequences for a bear. Follow the steps below for a more enjoyable visit and remember that bears are wild animals. Like any wild animal, they can be dangerous and are sometimes unpredictable.

Most bears are only interested in protecting food, cubs, or their space. However, being mentally prepared can help you have the most effective reaction. Above all, keep your distance from bears! Attacks on humans are rare, but they can occur – bears have killed 61 people across North America since 1900.


Viewing Etiquette

-  **Respect a bear's space.** Binoculars and spotting scopes allow you to view bears without getting too close.
-  **Never approach, crowd, pursue, or displace bears.** If a bear changes its behavior because of your presence, you are too close! If visiting parks, ask about viewing distance regulations, which may vary based on species and terrain. For example, Yellowstone National Park requires visitors to keep a distance of at least 100 yards (300 feet); Shenandoah National Park recommends 200 feet or more. *Below is a picture of how **NOT** to view bears.*



-  **Stay in groups and minimize noise and movement.** However, in areas of low visibility or when you're out on the trail, reduce chances of surprise encounters by staying alert and talking calmly to identify yourself as a human, not another animal.
-  **Stay on designated trails** whenever possible.
-  **Leave "orphaned" or sick bears alone.** Young animals that appear alone usually have a mother waiting nearby. Never get between a mother and her cub.
-  **Leave pets at home.**
-  **Give bears room to pass.** Do NOT run from a bear.
-  **Let bears eat their natural foods.** Prevent bears from getting human food by learning about food storage requirements. *Below is a picture of what **NOT** to do.*



-  **You are responsible for your safety and the safety of wildlife.** If a bear approaches you, it is your responsibility to move away and maintain a safe distance.

If you are attacked by a black bear, **DO NOT PLAY DEAD.** Try to escape to a secure place such as a car or building. If escape is not possible, try to fight back using any object available. Concentrate your kicks and blows on the bear's face and muzzle.

If any bear attacks you in your tent, or stalks you and then attacks, do NOT play dead—fight back! This kind of attack is very rare, but can be serious because it often means the bear is looking for food and sees you as prey.

Living or traveling in black bear country is something that a lot of people do every year. As civilization continues to encroach bear habitat, bears and humans will have to learn to live in close quarters with one another. Black bears are not aggressive animals if the proper precautions are taken. When in bear country, be smart. Think about things that you should

do to make sure that black bears will remain part of Wisconsin's wildlife for many years to come. Black bears are amazing creatures; treat them with the respect that they deserve.

Sources:

- ✓ <https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Mammals/Black-Bear.aspx> - National Wildlife Federation
- ✓ <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/critter/mammal/bears.htm> - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- ✓ <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/bears/safety.htm> - National Park Service
- ✓ <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/publications/Blackbears1.htm> - Washington State University
- ✓ www.bear.org – North American Bear Center, located in Ely, Minnesota
- ✓ *Mammals of the Great Lakes Region* by Allan Kurta, University of Michigan Press 1995.



Living with Bears in Wisconsin & Reducing Bear Conflicts near your Home

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/bearpractice.pdf> - Living with Bears in Wisconsin, WDNR

Black bears are attracted to numerous items around homes, including: bird feeders, compost piles, grills, pet food, gardens, and garbage. Here are some simple recommendations to avoid problem bears:

Bird Feeders

- Make bird feeders inaccessible to bears by hanging them at least 10 feet off the ground, and 5 feet away from tree trunks, or on a limb that will not support a bear (you can still refill the feeder easily by using a pulley system).
- Consider taking bird feeders down at the end of winter (mid-April) when bears emerge from their winter dens.
- During spring and summer, bring feeders inside at night, a time when bears frequent stations.
- Clean up spilled bird seed below feeder stations.
- If you see a bear at a bird feeder during the day, take the feeder down and discontinue all feeding for at least two weeks.



Garbage Cans & More

- Keep your garbage cans tightly closed, and indoors if possible.
- Pick up loose or spilled garbage so that it doesn't attract bears.
- Occasionally clean out your garbage cans with ammonia to make them less attractive to bears.
- Bring in pet food at night.
- Clean up and put away outdoor grills after you are done using them for the day.

NEVER FEED A BEAR! Intentional feeding will create a bear that is habituated to humans, and may become a possible nuisance to you and other people in the area. The bear will not forget the feeding experience, and will tend to get more demanding with time.



WHEN YOU ARE CAMPING:

- Don't cook, eat, or store food in your tent! The smell of food may attract bears.
- Store food and cooking utensils away from your campsite, preferably in a vehicle or hung in a tree at least 10 feet off the ground and 5 feet out on a limb that will not support a bear.
- Dispose of scraps in closed containers away from your campsite, not in the fire.
- Keep your campsite clean.



IF A BEAR IS CAUSING A NUISANCE IN YOUR AREA:

Contact the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Wildlife Services. In the northern half of Wisconsin, call 1-800-228-1368, or in the southern half of Wisconsin call 1-800-433-0663. They can help you by providing additional information on reducing or eliminating your specific problem. If the situation is severe and presents a threat to health and human safety, they can also remove the bear from the area.

BLACK BEARS AND AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE:

With a healthy black bear population, it is inevitable that black bears may damage agricultural crops in some areas. Particularly tasty treats are apiaries (beehives) and corn fields in the milk stage. Bears also occasionally attack livestock. The Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) is available to help Wisconsin farmers whose crops or livestock are damaged by bears. If you would like more information on this program, please contact the Wildlife Damage Specialist at (608) 266-8204. You can also check out the WDACP website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/damage/>.

In Marinette County, contact Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist, at 715-732-7783 for questions about wildlife damage issues. We are located in the Marinette County Courthouse in the Land Information Department, on the first floor.

Northwoods Journal
Volume 12, Issue 3

The *Northwoods Journal* focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

Published in cooperation by:

- Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation
- Marinette Co. Parks & Outdoor Recreation
- Marinette Co. UW-Extension

UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to the scheduled program. If you need this material in another format, please contact the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510.

Please send comments to:
Marinette County LWCD
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143
abartels@marinettecounty.com



Farming Facts for Marinette, Oconto, and Florence Counties

(Based on the 2012 Census of Agriculture)

By Scott Reuss, Agriculture/Horticulture Agent, UW-Extension



General Farm Facts	Marinette	Oconto	Florence
Total Farms - 2012 - 2007	535 746	929 1244	90 115
Land in Farms (# of acres)	132,100	189,400	13,400
% of County in Farmland	14.7%	29.6%	4.3%
Average Age of Farm Operator	58.3	56.4	59.4
Farm Workers Employed	714	1107	8
Total Value of Payroll	\$9.1 million	\$12.5 million	Not Avail.
Farming as Primary Occupation	276	447	35
Female as Principle Operator	39	103	16
Dairy Cattle Facts			
# of Dairy Farms	75	154	3
# of Dairy Cows	13,2500	20,100	300
\$ Value of Dairy Products Sold	\$55.1 million	\$79.7 million	Not avail.
Total # of Cattle - beef and dairy	38,700	54,600	800
# of Farms with cattle	239	403	31
Milk production	260 million lbs	456 million lbs	Not avail.
Economic Impacts			
Value of Agricultural Products (est.)	\$101.4 million	\$166 million	\$1.0 million
# of Small farms (less than \$10,000 in total sales)	297	481	68
# of Large Farms (more than \$250,000 in total sales)	82	148	0
Total Crop Sales Value (all crops est.)	\$29 million	\$65 million	\$425,000
Farms (& Value) with Direct to Consumer Sales	64 farms \$610,000	76 farms \$426,000	14 farms \$23,000



Land & Water Conservation's **Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery** (T.O.A.D.) program paid a visit to the Marinette Logging & Heritage Festival on July 12. Featured was a "hands-on nature table" (at right) with lots of natural items to see and touch, including pelts, skulls, insect displays, pinecones, and more!

T.O.A.D. is a collection of environmental education programs available to schools, scout & youth groups, and other groups interested in learning about our natural resources. It's a free program and is available to Marinette County residents/groups year-round. For more information, contact Anne Bartels, Education Specialist, at abartels@marinettecounty.com or 715-732-7784.



Visitors explore the variety of items and learn about Wisconsin's native animals & plants



Area Events Calendar



- May 28-Sept.3
- Area Museums Open. Marinette & Menominee County Historical Museums, Peshtigo Fire Museum, Amberg Historical Complex, Busville Doll Museum (Crivitz), Land of Oz Museum (Wausaukee) & West Shore Fishing Museum (M-35 north of Menominee, MI). Visit <http://therealnorth.com/museums.htm>.
- Thru October
- 'Tour de Taco' Ride. Weekly bike ride on Thursdays at 6pm, join us for a one hour ride with beverages and tacos after the ride at Cycle Path, 2329 13th Street, Menominee. Questions call 906-863-9361 or cyclepath360.com.
- August 1
- Family Water Bash. Civic Center Pool in Marinette, 6:15-8:15pm. Theme is "Everyone's Birthday". Call the Rec. Dept. at 715-732-5222 for more information.
- August 2
- Pembinе 3rd Annual Community Run. Run at Pembine American Legion Park, Minnie & Willis Street and will include walkers as well in the 5K event. All participants receive a t-shirt and medal (medals unique to the Pembine Run). For more information call 715-324-5182 or <http://pembinecommunityrun2011.webs.com>
- August 3
- Concerts in the Park. Evergreen Park, Wausaukee. "Ziggy the Polka Guy – Sig Loomis" 2:00 pm Refreshments available, bring your own seating.. More information, call 715-856-5341. .
- August 6
- Nature with Anne ~ Flying Colors (Grades PreK – 3). 1 pm at Stephenson Island at the pavilion. Learn about the butterfly life cycle, different kinds of butterflies, the differences between butterflies and moths and other topics. Free program, pre-register at the Civic Center, 715-732-5222.
- August 7-10
- 32nd Annual Waterfront Festival at Menominee Marina Park. Thursday: children's parade, food booths open at 4pm, children's activities, fire house safety tours, and music 4pm & 7pm. Friday: brats for breakfast, food booths open at 4pm, children's activities, water ball contest, sailboat race and music 4pm & 7pm. Saturday: 5k run & 5k walk, YMCA fitness demonstrations, M&M Amateur Radio Club, food booths open at 11am, children's activities, kayaking demonstrations, music 2:30pm & 5:15pm, and fireworks (9:15pm). Sunday: food booths open at 11am, parade at noon, Drum & Bugle Corp. performance 2-7pm. For more information call 906-863-2656 or visit www.menomineewaterfrontfestival.com.
- August 7
- Movies in the Park. Littleland Park Playground in Crivitz.at 8:50 pm "Frozen" , showing, sponsored by Witt's Piggly Wiggly/Subway/True Value with free snacks. Kids of all ages are invited. Movies are free but bring your own blankets, chairs and popcorn. For more information contact Ginger at 920-246-0831.
- August 8
- Family Water Bash. Civic Center Pool in Marinette, 6:15-8:15pm. Theme is "Raft Building". Call the Rec. Dept. at 715-732-5222 for more information
- August 10
- Movies in the Park. Stephenson Island, Marinette at dark. "Winnie the Pooh" shows at the gazebo. No admission, bring your own blankets & chairs and enjoy the show. Concessions available.
- August 10
- Concerts in the Park. Evergreen Park, Wausaukee. "Favorites, Bob Jicha" 2:00 pm Refreshments available, bring your own seating.. More information, call 715-856-5341.
- August 10
- 42nd Annual M&M Antique Auto Club Show. 8am-4pm at Menominee's historic waterfront, with trophies awarded at 3pm. Sponsored by the Motor Company. Registration from 8am-11am; more information call William Chartrand at 715-582-0347.
- August 11-15
- Science Camp. College 4 Kids Program at UW-Marinette, class is for 1-8 grades and runs from 8am-3:00pm. Class includes "Nature Experts" with Anne Bartels, Nikki Sotka & Mike Paquette. Cost of the Academy is \$143 per student. (Breakfast, lunch, snack and T-shirt included). Call 715-735-4300 Ext. 4342 for more information or to register.
- August 12
- Sunset Concert Series. Stephenson Island in Marinette; 7 PM Free musical entertainment. For more information, please call the MMCC at (715) 735-6681.
- August 13
- Bands at Badger Park. Badger Park in Peshtigo. Free musical entertainment, 6:30-8:30pm. Concerts held Wednesday evenings with concessions available at 5:30pm. Call 715-582-1141 for more information.
- August 15
- Movies in the Park. Stephenson Island, Marinette at dark. "Smurfs 2" shows at the gazebo. No admission, bring your own blankets & chairs and enjoy the show. Concessions available.
- August 15
- Family Water Bash. Civic Center Pool in Marinette, 6:15-8:15pm. Theme is "Beach Part". Call the Rec. Dept. at 715-732-5222 for more information.
- August 17
- Concerts in the Park. Evergreen Park, Wausaukee. "Wild Wood Flower & the Weeping Willows – Bryon Sparr, Mountain Music" 2:00 pm Refreshments available, bring your own seating.. More information, call 715-856-5341.
- August 19
- Bay Beach Trip. Sponsored by the Marinette Recreation Department. \$12 per person, includes bus fare. Ride tickets available upon arrival at Bay Beach. Participants may bring a bag lunch or purchase at Bay Beach on their own. Bus departs 9am, returns at 4pm. Call the Rec. Dept. at 715-732-5222 for more information.
- August 21
- Concerts in the Park. Great Lakes Memorial Marina in Menominee, MI, 7-9pm - The event is free of charge. For more information or a listing of the bands, please call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce (MMCC) at (715) 735-6681.
- August 21
- Movies in the Park. Littleland Park Playground in Crivitz.at 8:50 pm 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs", showing, sponsored by Crivitz Community ED with free snacks. Kids of all ages are invited. Movies are free but bring your own blankets, chairs and popcorn. For more information contact Ginger at 920-246-0831.
- August 21-24
- Marinette County Fair at the Wausaukee Fairgrounds. See page 3 for more information.
- August 22
- KNO ~ Kids Night Out – at Higley Field "Nuts for Nature" Open to kids ages five and up, and includes themed activities each month that include arts and crafts, games and a snack. The cost is \$5 per KNO, payable at the time of registration at the Civic Center.
- August 24
- Art in the Park. John Henes Park, Menominee MI. Sponsored by the Menominee Area Arts Council, showcasing & selling original artwork. Art activities available for all ages. Visit the MAAC website at www.cityofmenominee.org/maac.html for more information or call 906-863-8246.
- August 27
- Bands at Badger Park. Badger Park in Peshtigo. Free musical entertainment, 6:30-8:30pm. Concerts held Wednesday evenings with concessions available at 5:30pm. Call 715-582-1141 for more information.

Harmony Arboretum Schedule of Events



All programs are free and at Harmony Arboretum unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.

August 14 - Astronomy at the Arboretum
9:00 - 10:15 pm - See page 1 sidebar for more details!

August 19 – Harvesting Herbs & Tasting Too!
6:00 - 8:00 pm - Let Deb Doubek, owner of Peterman Brook Herb Farm, show you the best methods for harvesting the herbs in your garden. Then taste some examples of how to use the herbs once you have grown them.

August 21 - Prairie Walk, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
See page 1 sidebar for more details!

August 27 – Potato Harvest, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Taste testing of main crop potatoes, harvest and storage methodology, and late season management to get the most out of fall growing conditions will all be featured. See all the variation available in northern-adapted potato cultivars.

Over 100 people visited Harmony Arboretum during the 2014 Annual Garden Walk on July 19!



Master Gardeners ready to greet visitors



Visitors exploring the new bird habitat



The Children's Learning Garden

